

and shaped like the tusk of an elephant, the thick part being at the greatest altitude. Observing the comet with the naked eye at the seaside the whole tail took nearly an hour to rise.

Oct. 7.—In telescopic observations some vibration was observed at the head, and for some portion of the tail near the head for only a few seconds. This, we first thought, was owing to some irregular shaky motion of the equatorial, and closely examined the instrument. It was, however, found to be all right, being driven by clockwork, and no accident could be traced in the going of the instrument. The condition of the atmosphere was unusually fine and clear, and no wind. This morning the declination of the comet was 11° nearly; right ascension, $10^{\text{h}} 16^{\text{m}} 31^{\text{s}}$ nearly. Approximate daily variation deduced from the observations—in right ascension, $3^{\text{m}} 5^{\text{s}}$; in declination, $+34'5$ or $+35'$ nearly.

Our Hindoo astronomers predicted the appearance of a comet in the southern hemisphere in their printed calendar for the present year. As to the identity, they gave no other particulars except that it would possess a bright copper colour like the rising moon, and a long tail. The name given by them to their predicted comet is “Silpacam.”

*Observatory, Daba Gardens,
Vizagapatam:
1882, Oct. 8.*

Elements of the Orbit of Comet 1881 III. (Schäberle).
By Henry T. Vivian.

From the three positions of Comet III., 1881, observed by Mr. Tebbutt, Sept. 20 and 29, and Oct. 8 (*Monthly Notices*, vol. xlii., p. 263), I have computed the following parabolic elements:—

$$\begin{aligned} T &= 1881, \text{ August } 22^{\text{d}} 40^{\text{m}} 9^{\text{s}}, \text{ G.M.T.} \\ \pi &= 334^{\circ} 56' 47'' \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Apparent Equinox,} \\ 1881, \text{ Sept. } 29. \end{array} \right\} \\ \Omega &= 97^{\circ} 11' 49'' \\ i &= 39^{\circ} 37' 1'' \\ \log q &= 9.8015958 \end{aligned}$$

Motion retrograde.

A comparison with the middle place (computed—observed) gave—

$$\Delta L = +3''.8; \quad \Delta l = -12''.2.$$

The observations were corrected for aberration, and the longitude of Windsor was taken from the *Nautical Almanac* for the year.

London: 1882, Nov. 2.

*Sextant Observations of the Great Comet (h), 1882. By
Captain G. Pochrane.*

(Communicated by Capt. H. Toynbee, R.N.)

1882, Oct. 5. 4^h 30^m a.m. saw the comet for the first time through some breaks in the clouds; could not make any observation.

Oct. 5, 18^h 57^m G.M.T., the comet in full view, very large, its bearing from ship S.E., its altitude being 5° 4', and distance from Moon's upper limb 36° 8', its tail trending to W.S.W.

Oct. 7, 18^h 5^m G.M.T., in lat. 48° 38' N. Long. 20° 4' W. Observed altitude of comet's head 4° 25'; length from head to tail 14° 50'; its greatest width 1° 20'; distant from the Moon 16° 35'; Moon's altitude 20° 40'; distance of comet's head from *Regulus* 23° 54'; altitude of *Regulus* 26° 37'.

The Markings on Jupiter. By W. F. Denning.

In the *Monthly Notices* for Jan. 1882, pp. 97-100, I gave some details of the remarkably swift motion of the bright equatorial spot on *Jupiter*, and, as this curious marking continues to be a conspicuous object on the surface of the planet, it may be interesting to mention some further observations made here during the present year.

In my paper above referred to, I gave the period of 44^d 10^h 42^m 13^s.3 as that in which the great velocity of the bright spot enabled it to complete a revolution of *Jupiter* relatively to the red spot, and I gave a list of conjunctions for 1882 founded on this period. These were observed here as well as circumstances permitted. For the last half of the year the following were the predicted dates of these conjunctions.

				h	m	s
1882, Aug.	3	...	...	15	14	7
Sept.	17	...	...	1	56	20
Oct.	31	...	...	12	38	33
Dec.	14	...	...	23	20	47

The phenomenon in August really occurred about 1^d 9^h 30^m later than predicted from observations obtained here as follows:—

				Red Spot on C.M.		White Spot on C.M.	
				h	m	h	m
1882, Aug.	5	...	...	15	12	15	4
	7	...	...	16	47	16	9

On August 5 the white spot preceded the middle of the red by eight minutes, so that, allowing for the diurnal gain of